

**MINUTES OF THE  
47<sup>th</sup> INAUGURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE**

**December 8, 2014  
6:30 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of East Ridge, Tennessee met pursuant to notice on December 8, 2014. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present were: Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Bethune, Councilmember Gravitt, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, City Manager Hyatt, City Attorney North and City Recorder Middleton.

Mayor Lambert welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also read a message from Congressman Chuck Fleishman stating he had just landed in Washington, D.C. and sends his congratulations and best wishes to the new Council. He also looks forward to working with the Council.

City Manager Hyatt presented a plaque to Vice Mayor Bethune for his dedicated service to the Council over the last four years.

Mayor Lambert thanked Mr. Bethune for his service to the City.

At this time, the Honorable Judge Pam Fleenor administered the oath of office to the Honorable Brent Lambert.

The Honorable Judge Cris Helton administered the Oath of Office to the Honorable Larry Sewell.

The Honorable Judge Christie Sell administered the Oath of Office to the Honorable Jacky Cagle.

Mr. Bethune thanked everyone that supported him and he feels that a lot has been accomplished over the last four years, and especially the last few months. He thanked all the Councilmembers and stated that there was no better person than Jacky Cagle to sit on the Council. Mr. Cagle took his seat on the dais vacated by Mr. Bethune.

Mayor Lambert entertained a motion for nominations for the office of Vice Mayor. Councilmember Sewell asked to speak, but before he could Councilmember Manning nominated Councilmember Cagle for Vice Mayor. The Mayor allowed Mr. Sewell to speak first. Councilmember Sewell made a motion to nominate Councilmember Gravitt as Vice Mayor. Councilmember Manning stated that Mr. Gravitt had called him asking for his support as Vice Mayor and he believes that violates the Sunshine Law. City Attorney North stated that according to the Tennessee Open Meetings Law, Council cannot deliberate towards a decision outside any public forum, but a violation can be cured by having a full-blown discussion on the subject.

Councilmember Sewell stated that Mr. Gravitt had been on the Council longer, knows what is going on and would be the best choice for Vice Mayor. He also stated this was no reflection on Mr. Cagle. Mr. Gravitt stated that Mr. Manning offered the information to him that he was going to nominate Mr. Cagle for the position of Vice Mayor and Mr. Gravitt simply asked for his support.

Mr. Sewell restated his motion to nominate Mr. Gravitt for Vice Mayor. Mr. Manning asked for his motion, to nominate Mr. Cagle for Vice Mayor, to stand but Mayor Lambert stated there could only be one motion on the floor at a time and Mr. Sewell spoke first. The Mayor seconded Mr. Sewell's motion. Roll call vote: Councilmember Cagle – abstain, Councilmember Gravitt – abstain, Councilmember Manning – no, Councilmember Sewell – yes; Mayor Lambert –yes.

Mayor Lambert asked the City Attorney to give his legal opinion on this vote. Mr. North stated that according to the Charter, the Vice Mayor has to be elected by a majority of the Council, so this vote is good. Motion approved.

Mayor Lambert stated this is not the way he hoped the new council would get started, but council needs to move beyond this and do what they were elected to do – serve the citizens of East Ridge to the best of their ability. He looks forward to that opportunity.

Councilmember Manning stated he would do the best job he can do, but will stand up for what he believes in.

Councilmember Sewell thanked everyone that supported him. He stated people will be surprised over the next few years to see everything that will be coming to the City. He also stated it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Bethune.

Councilmember Cagle thanked the Lord for giving him the strength and courage to run. He also thanked his wife, Donna, his supporters, his family and poll workers. He looks forward to working with the new Council, the City Attorney and the City Manager.

Vice Mayor Gravitt thanked his wife for “putting up” with everything that goes with being an elected official. He thanked the citizens for allowing him the privilege to serve in a dual capacity as Vice Mayor and State Representative. He also thanked the Councilmembers that voted for him for Vice Mayor.

Mr. North clarified the vote for Vice Mayor. He stated that Section 5 B of the charter provides that the Vice Mayor shall be elected from its membership, not necessarily by majority; regardless of the abstentions, the election is valid.

City Manager Hyatt thanked Mr. Bethune for the part he played in bringing him and his family to East Ridge. He stated there are a lot of positive things going on and looks forward to working with this Council.

Mayor Lambert thanked his wife for her support and her patience. He is grateful for his wife, children and his parents that supported him during his term. He looks forward to the next four years.

Mayor Lambert recognized former and current elected officials in the audience. The Mayor stated that a reception will follow this meeting.

Mr. Hyatt also thanked his wife for her support.

Mr. Manning stated he appreciates his wife for her support over the last 10 years.

Councilmember Sewell also thanked his wife and family for their support.

Mayor Lambert wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He encouraged citizens to get involved on the various City boards or in other ways.

The meeting was adjourned.

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## **EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

**December 11, 2014  
6:30 p.m.**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on December 11, 2014, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Mayor Lambert gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Present were:** Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Gravitt, Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Sewell, City Manager Hyatt, City Attorney North and City Recorder Middleton.

**Special Presentation – County Commissioner Tim Boyd** – Commissioner Boyd presented a check to the City in the amount of \$4,000 for a flag and flag pole at Camp Jordan. Mr. Boyd commended Director Martin for all the improvements he has done at the park. Mr. Martin stated the project will begin sometime after Christmas, along with a garden in memory of Jo Lawrence of Crestwood Garden Club.

Mayor Lambert stated he went to Nashville today with City Manager Hyatt, City Treasurer Jablonski, and Director Martin. They met with Vice Mayor/State Representative Gravitt to receive a ceremonial check for the matching grant for the tennis courts, a basketball court, a dog park and other improvements at Camp Jordan. The check was in the amount of \$100,000.

**Presentation to Scott Butcher** – Mayor Lambert presented a plaque to Sgt. Butcher for his act of kindness by providing food to a homeless person and dog food to the person's dog.

**Presentation of Christmas Parade Awards** – Amanda Miller presented awards for the Christmas parade as follows:

### Non-Education

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Alhambra Shrine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ginger Brown's Academy of Performing Arts
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Physicians Surgery Center of Chattanooga

### Education

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - (\$100) ERHS JROTC
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - (\$200) Belvoir Christian Academy
- 1<sup>st</sup> - (\$300) Cub Scout Pack 3007

### Grand Marshall

Jo Lawrence Family

### **Consent Agenda:**

- A. Approval of Minutes November 6, 2014 Called Meeting
- B. Approval of October 2014 Financial Statement
- C. Approval of November 2014 Financial Statement

Amendment approved on January 8, 2015: Resolution No. 2449 lowers the sales price of the property at 4150 Monroe Street from \$650,000 to \$600,000. This amount was only in the Resolution, and not stated in the minutes. Mayor Lambert would like the amount of \$600,000 added in the discussion in the minutes. Mayor Lambert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to make this amendment to the minutes of December 11, 2014. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Amendment approved on January 8, 2015: During discussion of the bonuses, Mr. Manning asked Mr. Jablonski how much was in the reserves. Mr. Jablonski stated approximately \$4 million. Mr. Cagle would like these comments added to the minutes showing the reserve balance of \$4 million, plus the total amount in bonuses to be \$13,400. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to make this amendment to the minutes of December 11, 2014. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the consent agenda as amended. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

### **Communication from Citizens:**

Mack Pendley, 1706 East Ridge Avenue, asked if the City would consider hiring Pat Snowden as a part-time employee. She currently teaches the Silver Sneakers class at the Community Center, but her salary, which is paid by the YMCA, has been cut. He stated she could also handle senior activities. Director Martin stated Council would have to create this position. Mayor Lambert suggested putting this on the agenda for the first meeting in January.

Haroline Dickert, 2004 Myrtle Avenue, discussed the park that was supposed to be on Monroe Street but was moved to Camp Jordan. She stated there is nothing on this end of town for

seniors, not even at the Senior Center. She also stated that an employee should be at the History Center all the time. She stated the Jones Memorial Methodist Church provided 202 coats for East Ridge and Spring Creek elementary students. The Women's group in the church bought scarves and gloves for the children. Mr. Hyatt stated he has a plan for the History Center that he will discuss in the New Year.

Jason Wright, 3902 Sells Drive, stated the tunnel coming into East Ridge is dark and needs more lighting. He also discussed the need to have more things for people to do on the upper end of the City, the open records law, the Brady list (a list of officers accused of lying under oath) and the fact that people park their cars on Hibbler Circle, blocking other cars coming through. Mr. Hyatt will have someone check this out.

Gail King, 1521 East Ridge Avenue, provided a map that shows a 15 foot alley adjacent to the Monroe Street property which is going to be considered for rezoning tonight. She stated the homeowners own 7.5 feet and the City owns 7.5 feet. Mr. Hyatt stated that when the survey is done, all the maps should come out properly.

Mimi Lowrey, 819 Mt. Belvoir Drive, asked if the price of the pool property will be reduced from \$650,000 to \$600,000. The Mayor stated this is on the agenda for tonight. Ms. Lowrey also asked why the City gave the Fire Station #2 property to the developers rather than selling it to them, because we still owe on the building. Mayor Lambert stated that this was included in an incentive package that was negotiated and approved by Council and the Industrial Development Board. His understanding is that we felt like it would be better for us to find a location and build what we wanted, rather than replicate what currently exists. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated it is his understanding that a bond was issued on this property, so therefore the lien was not attached to the property; it was attached to the bond. Ms. Lowrey also stated that Mr. Jack Berry passed away on Tuesday. He was a former building inspector, and a volunteer on one of the city's boards. There will be a graveside service for family tomorrow and a memorial service later.

Frances Pope, 1913 Close Road, discussed Resolution 2448 on tonight's agenda. Mr. Jablonski stated this will be a fixed rate bond for the fire station and allow for the difference in the way the City is financing the incentives for the Bass Pro project.

### **Communication from Councilmembers:**

Councilmember Manning asked everyone to remember the family of Ken Davis in the recent passing of his mother-in-law. He also asked everyone to remember the family of Jack Berry, in his recent passing. He wished everyone a blessed holiday.

Councilmember Sewell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilmember Cagle thanked everyone that supported him and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Vice Mayor Gravitt wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He asked Chief Williams to come up to report what happened during a training exercise at the Hamilton County fire training center. The Chief stated that during a live fire drill, one of the trainees went down

and was unconscious. One of our volunteer firefighters, who was attending the class, pulled the unconscious firefighter out of the facility and revived her. He has given this firefighter a letter of commendation and would like for Council to recognize him at a future Council meeting. His name is Jason Nelson.

Mayor Lambert wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

**Communication from City Manager:**

- **Letter from Director of the Office of State and Local Finance** – Mr. Hyatt read this letter into the record. He stated it constitutes approval of the budget by the state. He added that economic development is changing the landscape of East Ridge. Popeye's will be opening soon, and the sales tax base is getting stronger.
- He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Old Business:**

**Discussion of Traffic Signal at Ringgold Road and Slater Road/McDonald Road** – Mr. Hyatt stated we received this Memorandum of Understanding regarding who will pay for the traffic signal and who will maintain it. He spoke with representatives from Volkert and they have been contracted to install the signal. He stated the City is not responsible for paying for the traffic signal; we only need to approve signing the MOU and sending it back to TDOT. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Cagle asked if this creates a more congested area, is it the City's responsibility to take it down. He stated that a traffic study was done in 2010 and since that time Lifecare has bought houses in the area which could change the traffic patterns. Mayor Lambert stated this study was subsequent to them buying out the homes. Mr. Cagle stated we should contact TDOT to do another traffic study to update the information. Part of the reconfiguration at Exit 1 was done as part of the Lifecare signal project. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated that Lifecare is investing 23 million dollars in their expansion project. Mr. Hyatt will contact TDOT to see if they will update their traffic study. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**New Business:**

**Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 982 – Rezoning of 4150 Monroe Street from R-1 Residential District to C-2 General Commercial District** – Mayor Lambert opened the public hearing to review the application for rezoning and allow public input prior to the council taking action. He stated the procedure will be as follows:

- Staff will provide an overview of the request and present the Planning Commission recommendation for the case under consideration.
- Following staff presentation, councilmembers will have an opportunity to ask questions of staff. During this time, discussion will be between staff and the council.
- Applicants or supporters will have seven minutes to present their request.
- Councilmembers will have the opportunity to ask questions from the applicants or supporters following the applicant presentation
- Any concerned citizens will have a total of nine minutes to state their concerns. The amount of minutes can be divided between several persons.

- Councilmembers will have the opportunity to ask questions following the citizen remarks.
- The applicant will be given two (2) minutes to respond to the points of concerned citizens.
- During the course of hearing remarks from the applicant or concerned citizen, council chair may grant additional time. If such time is allotted, equal time will be given to the other party.

**ORDINANCE NO. 982 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4150 MONROE STREET FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-2 GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT (1<sup>st</sup> reading)** – City Attorney North read on caption. John Bridger with the Regional Planning Agency (RPA) provided an overview of the project and RPA staff recommendations. He stated the applicant, Polestar, is proposing a 42,000 square foot grocery store, with a fuel center. He stated originally, it was not clear where the primary access would be, so RPA recommended denial of the project. Since then, the developer has made adjustments to make the primary access from Ringgold Road, so RPA recommended approval with a number of conditions, which include privacy screening on the residential sides of the property.

Jeff Soble, representing Polestar LLC, 736 Cherry Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee, stated Polestar is the developer for the proposed grocery store. Mr. Soble turned the presentation over to Ben Berry of Berry engineers, to discuss the project. Mr. Berry stated that parking lot lighting will be at 28 feet which is seven (7) feet lower than a typical development and will be directed away from the residential areas. He stated they will expand the buffer to 30 feet, with a six-foot fence followed by a row of evergreens that will grow higher and two rows of deciduous trees. The buffer on the south side will be 45 feet. The developers do not plan to use the entire 15-foot alley only 7 ½ feet. Councilmember Cagle suggested the developers use heavy-duty asphalt all the way to East Ridge Drive. Mr. Berry stated that trucks will come in on Monroe Street and then turn left into the store.

Mayor Lambert asked if there was anyone else that wanted to speak in support of the project. There were none.

At this time, the Mayor asked if anyone wanted to speak in opposition to the project. Those opposed will be given nine (9) minutes to speak. The Mayor will have the developers come back to answer any questions or concerns the citizens have.

Donnie Pardue, 2013 East Ridge Avenue, is concerned about elevation and water run-off. He stated the developers need to leave the elevation where it is and build a retaining wall.

Willard Foote, 4115 Dupont Street, is concerned with water runoff. He stated the swimming pool had runoff on his property which caused a mosquito problem.

Gail King, 1521 East Ridge Avenue, stated that the tree waste that was put on the pool property after the storms of April 2011 caused an ant problem which killed some of her trees. She stated any new trees planted should be sprayed.

Buddy Griffith, 1512 Merrill Street, discussed the park that was supposed to be on Monroe Street but was moved to Camp Jordan. He also stated the City doesn't need another grocery store; that it will force other grocery stores in the area to close.

Mimi Lowrey, 819 Mt. Belvoir Drive, and owns a house at 1612 East Ridge Avenue, is concerned there will be no turn lane on Ringgold Road into the entrance causing congestion. She also stated the detention pond will cause mosquitoes.

Joann Gentry, 1514 Merrill St., stated that when the fence was put up for the tennis courts that the owners took 10 feet of hers and other landowners property. She believes the new owners need to compensate them for that property.

Ralph Joe Smith, Merrill Street, stated he owns 10 feet of property beside the tennis court fence. He believes the owners of the new store should put up a \$1 million security bond for each homeowner.

Jeff Soble discussed the issue of a turn lane on Ringgold Road. He stated at this time, TDOT does not feel a turn lane is required. He also stated that the detention pond will be dry most of the time; it is designed to take in a certain amount of water and release it at a certain rate into the city's drain system. It will not attract any additional mosquitoes.

Ben Berry addressed concerns about the elevation along the eastern property line. He stated the tennis courts are higher and the pool area is lower. Dirt will be taken from the tennis courts to fill in the pool area. He stated that the elevation of the homes along East Ridge Avenue falls as you go south, so the parking lot will be the same elevation as the first house on East Ridge Avenue. Screening is proposed at the higher elevation areas.

There were no other questions or comments at this time. The Mayor closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Gravitt asked if the Mayor could move Resolution No. 2449 to this portion of the agenda, before voting on Ordinance No. 982.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2449 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2418 WHICH APPROVED THE CONTRACT TO SELL CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY, AND THE IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, OWNED BY THE CITY AND LOCATED AT 4150 MONROE STREET** – City Attorney North read on caption. Frank Cowden, with Regent Properties, stated that the developer experienced some cost overruns during their due diligence. He stated that the developer is going to absorb some of the cost overruns and other sellers have agreed to reduce their price to help absorb these costs. Mr. Cagle asked how much the closing costs would be for the City. Mr. North stated they would be minimal, probably no more than \$2,000. Councilmember Manning suggested the City lower the selling price to \$625,000. Mr. North asked if the purchase of the property by the developer was contingent on approval of the rezoning. Mr. Cowden stated that it was. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2449. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.



**ORDINANCE NO. 982** – At this time, Council returned to this ordinance for consideration. Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Ordinance No. 982 on first reading. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated he has received only one email from a citizen opposing the rezoning. He also stated that no one likes development in their back yard, but the number one issue that citizens bring up is why the City does not have better stores to bring in economic development. Mr. Gravitt stated that all the development cannot be focused at Exit 1; that some must be on the upper end of town to benefit the citizens more. He also stated that we are getting a substantial return on the pool property. He also wanted to clarify that the City did not close down the pool; the City saved the pool from foreclosure. When the City bought the pool property, it lost the grandfather clause as far as safety updates. Estimates to bring the pool up to code were between \$700,000 and \$800,000. TML recommended not reopening the pool because it is a huge liability. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Presentation/Discussion of Audit** – Vice Mayor Gravitt asked the Mayor if the audit presentation could be moved to this portion of the agenda, since we have representatives from Henderson, Hutcherson, and McCullough, PLLC, who performed the audit. Khara Lounsbury presented the audit to the Council. She stated that the City received a good clean report, and also stated the City has a professional staff. She stated that all adjustments have been made and they found no fraud or illegal acts. The auditors received all the required documentation. She presented the final copies to the Council. Vice Mayor Gravitt asked Ms. Lounsbury if the City was in the “black” and if so, how much. Ms. Lounsbury stated the City had an increase in the fund balance of \$805,765 over last year.

Vice Mayor Gravitt asked if it would be possible to table some of the remaining agenda items and either have a called meeting next week or recess this meeting and resume it next week.

At this time, the Mayor took a 10-minute break.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2447 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR WEBSITE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE** – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to table this item. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2448 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$3,500,000, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES; MAKING PROVISION FOR THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND PAYMENT OF SAID BONDS, ESTABLISHING THE TERMS THEREOF AND THE DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS THEREFROM; AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL, PREMIUM, IF ANY, AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS** – City Attorney North read on caption. City Treasurer Jablonski asked Council to consider this item tonight since it is time sensitive. Mr. Jablonski introduced Kyle Wright with PFM to discuss the issue. Mr. Wright stated Council approved an initial resolution for the bond issue and this resolution authorizes the City to move forward with the bond issue. He stated also this is time sensitive. The public is given 20 days notice to protest the bond. He stated we have to close the bonds by January 29, 2015. Mr. Jablonski stated it is in the City’s best interest to approve, plus the maximum interest rate was lowered since the initial resolution.

Staff recommendation is to approve. Also, the city can raise taxes to pay the bond, but is under no obligation to do so. The payment will be approximately \$200,000 - \$210,000, so the City should have no problem budgeting for this. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2448. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2450 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE LAWSUIT BROUGHT AGAINST SUPERIOR CREEK LODGE AND SUPERIOR CREEK LODGE, II, LLC** – City Attorney North read on caption. Mr. North stated this matter has been in litigation and there were various terms and conditions about how property was maintained and security provided. The proposed settlement would be for those conditions to continue as long as current property owner owns the property. If the property is sold or deteriorates, the City would have the right to abate the nuisance. Councilmember Cagle asked if the City had to equip our police cars and fire equipment with gate openers at our expense. Chief Williams stated that the program on the radio system that opens the gates is part of our maintenance on radios that we can have changed at any time. He stated that the police have a federal channel that is put in public safety radios that can be used for access. Mr. North stated the trial is set for next Monday, so a decision will need to be made tonight. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated for the record, that the owner has complied with all the measures that were negotiated. Mr. North stated to his knowledge, the owner has spent \$250,000 or more on these measures. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2450. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2451 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, ADOPTING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVED BY REFERENDUM HELD ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014** – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 2451. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2452 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE LAWSUIT BROUGHT BY JONATHAN PELHAM AGAINST THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE AND OFFICER JOHN M. CARRICO** – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve Resolution No. 2452. Mr. North stated this was a nuisance lawsuit filed by someone who ran a lawn care business. One partner in the business stated that Officer Carrico assisted the other partner in repossessing a lawn mower. TML will pay the settlement amount. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Board Appointments** – Councilmember Cagle resigned from the Personnel Board. Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to table this item. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Meeting Schedule** – Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to table this item. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Fire Station #2** – Vice Mayor Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to table this item if the Fire Chief or City Manager had no objection. They had none. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Bonus (Manning)** – Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to table this item. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Christmas Holidays (Hyatt)** – City Manager Hyatt removed this item from the agenda.

**Discussion of State Revenue Audit** – City Manager Hyatt removed this item from the agenda.

Councilmember Cagle asked City Manager Hyatt to meet with him before the next meeting to bring him up to date on the Fire Station #2 location.

Mayor Lambert recessed this meeting until 5:00 p.m. on December 18, 2014.

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**EAST RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA**

**December 18, 2014  
4:30 p.m.**

**Recessed from December 11, 2014**

Mayor Lambert stated the meeting would proceed at the point at which it was recessed.

**New Business:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2447 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING A PROPOSAL FOR WEBSITE DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND ANNUAL MAINTENANCE** – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Gravitt requested that Council leave this item on the table. He stated he received an email from a citizen who could give us input on websites. He would also like input from all directors, supervisors, or anyone who collects money or uses the website on a regular basis. He wants these employees to decide what is needed on a website and then move forward. Councilmember Cagle has been researching the cost of the current website and stated it is not that old. City Treasurer Jablonski stated that the quote is good for 30 days, and if the cost increased it should not be significant. This item remained on the table.

**Discussion of Board Appointments** – City Manager Hyatt recommended that the board appointments run from July 1 – June 30. He stated that Councilmember Cagle resigned from the Personnel Board and former Vice Mayor Bethune is off the Planning Commission. Mayor Lambert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to nominate Councilmember Sewell to the Planning Commission. The Mayor stated the Planning Commission consists of the Mayor, one Councilmember and three other members appointed by the Mayor. Roll call vote:

Vice Mayor Gravitt – yes; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Manning – yes; Councilmember Sewell – abstain; Mayor Lambert – yes. Motion approved. City Attorney North and City Manager Hyatt will go over all the board requirements and make everything consistent. Mayor Lambert stated he would like to see a process where citizens could apply to be on boards. Since Councilmember Cagle was Vice Mayor Gravitt's appointment, the Vice Mayor made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to appoint Frances Pope to the Personnel Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Meeting Schedule** – City Manager Hyatt stated the Council should approve the meeting schedule for Council meetings and board meetings. He also stated that the Planning Commission needs to schedule a set time to meet every month and then cancel if there is no business to consider. Mr. Hyatt stated that agenda work sessions will begin at 6:00 pm on the second and fourth Thursdays, followed by the regular Council meeting at 6:30 pm. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve the meeting schedule. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Fire Station #2** – City Manager Hyatt discussed the option the City has on the Brown property on Ringgold Road just beyond Scruggs. He stated Mr. Brown originally offered to sell three acres to the City for \$70,000 per acre and give the City a fourth acre. Mr. Brown now wants sell the additional 4<sup>th</sup> acre for \$70,000 also. Mr. Hyatt stated the entrance to the fire station would come off Ringgold Road and would be shared with the proposed grocery store going on the adjacent property. The other entrance would be off Scruggs Road and is partially in Georgia which could be a liability. Mr. Hyatt stated there is another option to put the fire station in Camp Jordan. Councilmember Cagle made a motion to reject the offer from Mr. Brown.

Trip Brown, a nephew of Richard Brown, the owner of the property in question, asked to speak. He stated that the Browns would develop the entrance and the City could develop the road leading to the fire station.

Councilmember Sewell stated there is another option we could look at. Councilmember Manning seconded Mr. Cagle's motion for discussion purposes. Councilmember Sewell stated he talked to Donald Payne, a house mover, who stated he can move Station 2 in 18 days, including electrical, plumbing, etc., plus he could build another bay if necessary. He would charge the City a total of \$99,000. Vice Mayor Gravitt recommended we get quotes from engineering firms to see what it would cost to move the existing structure. Mr. Gravitt stated he does not like the fact that Mr. Brown changed the price in mid-stream, but he also believes we should leave the option open on the Brown property. Mr. Manning withdrew his second.

Vice Mayor Gravitt asked Mr. Brown if he believes his uncle would go back to his original agreement. Mr. Brown stated he would have to check with him on that. Mayor Lambert stated we need to build a fire station that meets our needs in the future considering all the development that will be taking place. Councilmember Sewell stated he was told the fire station needs to be on the east side of the interstate just in case something happened to the interstate bridge. This also helps the City's ISO rating. At this time, Mr. Cagle withdrew his motion. Councilmember Sewell made a motion that the City Manager look at options and bring back to Council on the January 8 meeting but later withdrew the motion. Mayor Lambert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, for staff to solicit proposals for moving the fire station, including gas, electrical, concrete, extra bay, etc. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

**Discussion of Bonus (Manning)** – Councilmember Manning made a motion to give a Christmas bonus in the amount of \$500 for all full-time employees and \$350 for all part-time and volunteers/reserves. The approximate cost would be \$74,000. Councilmember Sewell stated that when the budget was approved, council gave employee raises, rather than bonuses, because it would be better for employees. Vice Mayor Gravitt stated that bonuses are not budgeted. He also stated that employees have excellent health benefits and some have leave buyback. He asked Mr. Manning where he planned to take the money from to pay for raises. Mr. Manning stated we could take it out of the reserves. Mr. Manning amended his motion to give full-time employees \$300 and part-time and volunteers/reserves \$200 and then amended again to give \$250 and \$175 respectively. Councilmember Cagle seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Gravitt – no; Councilmember Cagle – yes; Councilmember Manning – yes; Councilmember Sewell – no; Mayor Lambert – no. Motion denied. Mayor Lambert made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to give full-time employees a \$100 bonus and part-time/volunteers/reserves a \$75 bonus and to take it out of the reserve fund. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned.